

Springdale Fire Department

Policy & Procedures Manual

Volume 2 – Operations

Section 202 - Communications

202.5 – Standard and Benchmark Radio Phrases

In compliance with the National Incident Management System the following standard and benchmark radio phrases will be used exclusively.

Unreadable: preferably including a specific description of the type of radio communications difficulty.

Readable or Loud and Clear: possibly including a specific description of the quality of radio communications.

Negative: No.

Affirmative: Yes.

Copy or Copies: Affirmative confirmation of a transmission; is prefaced by stating the unit ID and preferably a short repeat of the original transmission that is understood.

Example: “Ladder 1 copies to position on the A side and extend the aerial to the roof.”

Out of Service: Unit is unavailable for response. If out of service due to vehicle mechanical reasons a brief reason for being out of service (such as “for maintenance”, “flat tire”, etc.) should be included.

In Service: Unit is available for response. If the unit is out of the city (such as a Squad in Rogers) the current location of the unit should be included.

Location: Physical/Geographical location of unit or personnel.

Call: Call by telephone.

In Quarters: Unit is in assigned station.

On the Air: Unit is out of station (not assigned to an incident) and In Service.

Responding: Unit is actively responding to an incident. When responding from a station that has more than one unit, it is acceptable to respond as a station not as individual units. This only applies when all units being toned out are in the station (or on the air together). If there are units remaining at the station that are not assigned, it is still acceptable to respond as “station”.

Example: “Station 1 responding”

This will minimize radio traffic en-route to an emergency.

Responding From: When a unit receives an assignment and are out of their station, they shall provide a geographical location from which they are responding from.

Example: “Engine 2 responding from Sunset and Gutensohn.”

On Scene: Unit has arrived on the scene of an incident.

All Clear: Confirmation that a search for victims revealed none, or a reliable report has been received that all persons are out of the hazard areas. On certain incidents, there may be a quick primary search: Primary, All Clear, followed by a more extensive secondary search: Secondary, All Clear.

Under Control: Incident has been controlled or stabilized, and the need for additional emergency resources is unlikely.

Patient Contact Made: Logged when personnel make contact with a patient following a delay such as staging for PD to ensure the scene is safe, etc.

Extrication Complete: The patient or victim has been removed from an entanglement or entrapment hazard.

Transporting: Medic unit is enroute to a destination hospital with a patient. In addition to announcing "Transporting", the announcement shall include the number of patients being transported, the destination hospital, and the beginning mileage. Example: "Medic 1 to Springdale" PAUSE FOR RESPONSE FROM DISPATCH..."Go ahead Medic 1"... "Medic 1 transporting 1 patient, to Northwest, beginning mileage 601.4."

At (Destination): Medic unit is arriving at a patient destination. Example: "Medic 1 to Springdale"...PAUSE FOR RESPONSE FROM DISPATCH..."Go ahead Medic 1"... "Medic 1 at Northwest, ending mileage 611.9."

Command: The Incident Commander's Radio Designation, this should include a geographical reference to identify the particular incident. Example: "Emma Command."

May-Day: Emergency transmission used to report personnel(s) status as being lost or missing, trapped, injured, and needing immediate rescue.

May-Day Drill: Non-Emergency transmission used in training or drills to simulate a Mayday situation.

Emergency Traffic: The term utilized when personnel encounter an immediately hazardous situation to communicate the hazard to Command and all other units and personnel, such as imminent building collapse, energized wires down, etc.

PAR: Personnel Accountability Report. A report from operating units which includes the number of personnel assigned to the particular unit/division/group and accounted for.

Example "Engine 1 PAR 3", "Engine 4 PAR 2". In the event the group has personnel unaccounted for, the report shall be "Engine 1 PAR 2, 1 Missing."

Special Assignment: Term used to indicate the status of a unit(s) assigned to a standby or otherwise assist during certain activities that have security and or communications sensitivity concerns such as a standby for Law Enforcement during a raid. If the unit will be Out of Service, the transmission shall include such. Example: "Medic 5 On the Air, Out of Service, Special Assignment."

Zero: Emergency Request for Law Enforcement Response. Used when FD personnel encounter a confrontational situation where immediate Law Enforcement intervention is needed and the situation may become intensified if those involved are aware that Law Enforcement is being called. Example: "Zero Engine 5 to Springdale". Dispatch will only acknowledge "Zero Engine 5".